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This is the more desirable inasmuch as the U. S. Government has recognized the importance of dialectal statistics. Mr. PORTER, superintendent of the census, and Mr. HUNT, special agent, have manifested their interest in the matter by adding questions calling for dialectal statistics in the national census to be taken in June of this year. It will thus be made possible to locate the dialect territories of the country for further investigation.

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### LEXICAL NOTES.

1. The BOSWORTH-TOLLER 'Dictionary' supplies no instance of the use of the uncompounded form of *dwelan* 'to err,' of which the preterit singular *dwæl* [MS. *dæl*] occurs in "Genesis" l. 23. The 'Dictionary' is however correct in admitting, for the same line, the phrase *on gedwilde* (vid. *gedwild*).

2. In the 'Oxford Dictionary' s. v. *belch*, 'eructatio,' there is an omission of the Anglo-Saxon *bælc*, which is particularly interesting for its metaphorical sense, 'pride' (cf. the meanings of the verb *belch*).

3. *gehrifnian* 'to disembowel, to tear up, to devour' ('Orosius,' SWEET's edition, 142, 26; not recorded in the BOSWORTH-TOLLER 'Dictionary') may be significantly defined by *eventerate*,—a word used by Sir THOMAS BROWNE (vid. BOHN's "Antiquarian Library" edition of BROWNE's works, vol. i, p. 247, note 4).

4. The adjective *gefêrlíc* (which is to be distinguished from *fêrlíc*=*fêrlíc*, 'repentinus'), in the compounded form *ungefêrlíc*, is employed in the 'Orosius' in such connection as to fix with certainty its meaning. I have noted three occurrences (SWEET's edition, 5, 31; 232, 31; 244, 25), of which the first, in the heads of chapters, is merely a copy of the second, but the second and the third are interpreted by the corresponding Latin text. A glance at these passages, in which *ungefêrlíc unsibb* corresponds to *sociale bellum*, and *he sippan V gefeoht ungefêrlíce purhteah to nam bella civilia quinque gessit*, discovers that the notion of social and civil warfare is translated by a word which to the Anglo-Saxon mind suggested warfare among comrades, associ-

ates, *gefêran*; *ungefêrlíc* is therefore used in its etymological sense, signifying 'contrary to fellow-feeling,' 'in violation of companionship or of association in private or in public relations,' etc. In the last instance cited the adjective is, of course, transformed into an adverb, for, in view of the reading of MS. C, it is not probable that we have here a mechanical imitation of the order of words in the Latin text.

5. For the preterit *geanmette* and the participle *geanmet* ('Orosius,' SWEET's edition, 140, 23; 152, 4) an infinitive *geanmëttan* is postulated in the BOSWORTH-TOLLER 'Dictionary'; COSIJN ('Altwestsächsische Grammatik' i, p. 97; ii, pp. 162, 165), on the other hand, deduces the infinitive *geanmëttan*. The latter is, of course, the correct form, but it may not be amiss to indicate its probable origin.

The history of *geanmëttan*, rightly interpreted to mean 'to encourage,' is parallel to that of *geëadmëttan* (*geëadmëttan*, e. g. ÆLFRIC's 'Homilies' ii, 434). The latter is clearly a denominative in analogy to *ëad-mëttu* (<\**ëad-môdiða*, SIEVERS' 'Grammar' §§ 255, 3; 202, 4, b) and takes its place, as a later formation, by the side of the earlier *ëadmëdan* (<\**ëad-môd-jan*). In like manner we must suppose that the base *an-môd* (*on-môd*) regularly gave rise to a verb *anmëdan* (*onmëdan*) which has not hitherto been recorded (for *onmëde* of "Riddle" 56, 10, is to be given up); but in time we come to have *anmëttan*, established by the analogy of \**onmëttu* (\**anmëttu*) combined, as is probable, with the influence of *ëadmëttu* and *ëadmëttan*.

I gladly attribute this explanation to an impression gained, several years ago, from a conversation with Professor SIEVERS.

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### THE INTERPRETATION OF CERTAIN WORDS AND PHRASES IN THE 'WARS OF ALEXANDER.'

There are several words and phrases found in the 'Wars of Alexander,' edited by Prof. SKEAT for the E. E. T. S., Extra Series, xlvii, the proper interpretation of which is extremely doubtful. I should like to draw attention to the discussion of a few, to which I have